

Treasury Department,

Bureau of the Mint,

Washington, D. C. Sept. 2, 1899.

W. H. Benham,

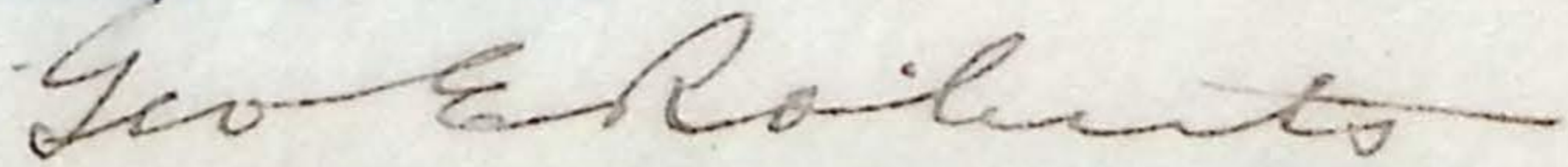
Deadwood, S. D.

Sir:

I have your letter of August 25th, in behalf of Mr. Thornby. I have concluded in view of the representations you make and similar letters from Col. Henderson of Iowa and your own South Dakota Congressman to reinstate Mr. Thornby, at least temporarily. The Deadwood office has never done the business it was expected to do and which was prepared to receive, consequently it is too heavily loaded with office force.

My opinion is that there is danger that the Institution be discontinued unless either the business increases or the expenses are cut down. For that reason, I considered a reduction of expenses as a measure for the protection of the office.

Respectfully yours,



Director of the Mint.

Treasury Department,

Bureau of the Mint,

Washington, D. C. Sept. 2, 1899.

Robert J. Gamble,

Yankton, South Dakota.

Dear Sir:

Your letter from Omaha in relation to the Deadwood Assay Office was duly received. Of course we have had no thought of discontinuing that office, but it has fallen so far short of doing the business it was planned to do that the office force has been altogether too large. My opinion has been that to avoid an attack upon the office which might result in its discontinuance, it would be wiser to reduce expenses there. During the last fiscal year there were 205 deposits at the office, or about four a week. To keep the books, we have two clerks to aid the Assayer in Charge and to handle the bullion, we have two assayers and a melter, and added to these two other employes. It is my opinion that the melter and one clerk could very easily be dropped without entailing a burdensome amount of labor upon those remaining; accordingly I so instructed the Assayer in Charge, and the resignation of these two was received. I have concluded, however, since receiving your letter to have the melter, Mr. Thornby, reinstated,

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at least for the present, and I hope this settlement of the matter will be satisfactory to you and to Mr. Burke.

I think the policy of reducing expenses there is one calculated to protect the institution and therefore in the interest of those to whom the institution is an accommodation.

Very truly yours,

Geo E. Roberts

Director of the Mint.

Treasury Department,

Bureau of the Mint,

Washington, D. C., Sept. 2, 1899.

D. B. Henderson,

Dubuque, Iowa.

Dear Colonel:

I have received your letter of August 25th, interceding for Mr. Thornby, an employe of the Deadwood Assay Office, whose resignation had been asked for for the purpose of reducing the expenses of that Institution. In view of what you and other friends have said, in his behalf I have concluded to reinstate him for the present at least. My opinion is that the force at Deadwood is too heavy for the amount of business the Institution is doing, but we have the appropriation and as there are some reasons to hope that the output of gold in the hills will increase, it may be as well to continue Mr. Thornby in his position until next Spring.

Very truly yours,



Director of the Mint.